

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

PolyPhaser Corporation

Nevada Management Assistance Partnership

PolyPhaser Corporation gets ISO 14001 Certification

Client Profile:

PolyPhaser Corporation is a complete and total world-class leader in global lightning solutions. PolyPhaser Corporation, a member of the Smiths Group of International Companies, has been the leading provider of quality RF lightning protection and grounding solutions to the wireless communications market for the past 20 years. They have RF protection product installations in over 75 countries. One hundred twenty five employees manufacture the PolyPhaser products in Minden, Nevada. The company has sales offices in Europe and Asia as well as a manufacturing facility in China.

Situation:

PolyPhaser is committed to managing the environmental impacts associated with its business operations. They had a desire to be proactive and seek the international recognition associated with the ISO 14001 standard.

In general, the ISO 14001 standard specifies requirements for an Environmental Management System (EMS) to enable an organization to formulate an Environmental Policy, establish environmental objectives taking into account legislative requirements, organizational environmental aspects over which an organization can influence or control, and the potential environmental impacts related to those aspects. Specifically, the following was required for PolyPhaser to become certified to ISO 14001: 1) Regulations: Identify all regulatory requirements that affect its operations and assess compliance; 2) Environmental Management Planning: Develop and maintain environmental plans that define goals, action plans, and responsibilities; 3) Operational Policy and Procedures: Formulate an Environmental Policy and document those operational activities required to meet compliance activities; 4) EMS Audits: Verify EMS performance and identifies improvement opportunities through regular EMS audits; 5) Continuous Improvement: Establish performance targets for improving on those environmental activities important to the business and complying with regulations.

Polyphaser employees began preparation for the certification but needed assistance in preparing the Legal Registry to categorize the appropriate state regulations pertinent to their facility and those that were not. The company contacted the Nevada Management Assistance Partnership (MAP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

MAP responded to PolyPhaser's request for assistance by providing Mactec Engineering consultant Ron Leiken as the specialist who walked them through the process for step 1 above. Mactec prepared a Legal Registry, a tabulation of the pertinent and non-pertinent regulations that apply to PolyPhaser, complete with implications and recommendations along with specific references rather than general categories. MAP also connected PolyPhaser with Rich DeLong of Enviroscientists, who provided the third party compliance audit prior to their certification audit.

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Results:

- * Achieved certification and compliance with ISO 14001 standard.
- * Achieved a more competitive and profitable position.

Testimonial:

"Meeting the challenges of our social responsibilities is an important factor in PolyPhaser's success, and the international recognition associated with the ISO 14001 standard came from the effort of our employees in recognizing environmental responsibility. MAP's role in this was that they connected us with the right people within a short period of time who provided us with a much higher confidence level for our certification audit."

Ray Matheus, Quality Manager